

Message Text

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DRAFT)

----- 130286

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, UR, US

SUBJECT: CONTINENTAL SHELF FISHERY RESOURCES

REF: MOSCOW 13420

1. THE NEW US ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE US CONTINENTAL SHELF FISHERY RESOURCES WERE EXPLAINED ON SEPTEMBER 9 TO SOVIET EMBASSY COUNSELORS ISAKOV AND ZNAMENSKIY BY LOS TASK FORCE CHAIRMAN MOORE AND OTHER DEPARTMENT OFFICERS. MOORE EXPLAINED THAT THE PROCEDURES REFLECTED NO RPT NO NEW US CLAIM IN REGARD TO THE CONTINENTAL SHELF, BUT RATHER A US INTENTION TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PURSUE ENFORCEMENT MORE STRICTLY THAN IN THE PAST. MOORE

ALSO COMMENTED THAT EXISTING US-SOVIET BILATERALS ON FISH-
ERIES COULD EASILY BE ADJUSTED TO ENCOMPASS THE NEW PRO-
CEDURES. MOORE ALSO PLACED THE NEW ENFORCEMENT MEASURES
IN THE CONTEXT OF THE EFFORT TO AVOID PASSAGE OF THE 200
MILE FISHERIES BILL AND EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE CLOSE
COOPERATION WE HAVE HAD ON LOS ISSUES.

2. IN THE ENSUING DISCUSSION, THE SOVIETS INDICATED FULL
AWARENESS OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION BEFORE CONGRESS WHICH
WOULD UNILATERALLY EXTEND US FISHERIES ZONE FROM TWELVE
TO 200 MILES. WHILE RESTRAINED IN THEIR COMMENTS, THE
SOVIETS LEFT NO DOUBT AS TO THE UNDESIRABILITY IN THEIR
VIEW OF THIS LEGISLATION.

3. LOOKING OVER TESTIMONY ON THE NEW ENFORCEMENT PRO-
CEDURES, THE SOVIETS EXPRESSED CONCERN ONLY OVER THE
PROVISION FOR THE ARREST AND SEIZURE OF ANY VESSEL TAKING
CONTINENTAL SHELF FISHERY RESOURCES (E.G. LOBSTER AND
CRAB) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED BY THE UNITED STATES IN BILATERAL
AGREEMENTS. THE SOVIETS SEEMED REASSURED WHEN TOLD THAT
VESSELS SUBJECT TO ARREST AND SEIZURE WOULD BE ONLY THOSE
ACTUALLY ENGAGED IN THE TAKING OF CSFR, AND THAT IT WAS
NOT CONTEMPLATED THAT ONE VESSEL COULD BE ATTACHED FOR
THE TAKING OF PROHIBITED RESOURCES BY ANOTHER.

4. MOORE NOTED THAT A DIPLOMATIC NOTE ON THE PROCEDURES
WOULD BE CIRCULATED SHORTLY, AND THAT WE WERE INFORMING
CERTAIN INTERESTED EMBASSIES -- THE FIRST BEING THE
JAPANESE AND THE SOVIETS -- IN ADVANCE.

5. TEXTS OF THE NOTE AND RELATED DOCUMENTS ARE BEING
POUCHED TO EMBASSY MOSCOW. INGERSOLL

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